

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 MBFR-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 H-03 SS-15 NSC-10

DRC-01 /081 W

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R 051135Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5308

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L FRANKFURT 5752

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MARR, GW

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY HESSEN DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER

REF: STATE 151738; USIA 14814

JOINT CONGEN-USIS MESSAGE

1. STATE SECRETARY HEINRICH KOHL, DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER IN HESSEN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, DEPARTED SEPT 3 ON PRIVATE THREE-WEEK VISIT TO US. HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR COUPLE OF DAYS MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK (APPROX SEPT 12-13) AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DISCUSSION WITH APPROPRIATE DEPT OFFICER. HE RECALLED SIMILAR CONVERSATION WITH ELWOOD WILLIAMS DURING PREVIOUS VISIT SOME YEARS AGO. SINCE WILLIAMS TRAVELING IN GERMANY, WE GAVE KOHL NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CE DEPUTY DIRECTOR NELSON LEDSKY. KOHL WAS NOT SURE OF HIS SCHEDULE OR WHERE HE WILL BE STAYING IN WASHINGTON, SO HE OFFERED TAKE INITIATE TO CONTACT LEDSKY. IF LATTER NOT AVAILABLE, WE HOPE CE WILL BE PREPARED SUGGEST OTHER SUITABLE OFFICER FOR TOUR D'HORIZON WITH KOHL, CONCENTRATING ON US-GERMAN RELATIONS, INCLUDING OSTPOLITIK.

2. KOHL MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OR CONGRESSIONAL STAFF ON AMERICAN TROOP PRESENCE AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORTS AS PORPOSED REFTELS. HE WOULD MOST LIKELY

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BEWILLING ENTER SUCH DISCUSSIONS. HE IS ONE OF KEY HESSEN OFFI-

CIALS WITH WHOM OUR MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE DEALINGS ON DEFENSE
ARRANGEMENTS, AND HE THUS VERY FAMILIAR WITH OUR MILITARY RESOURCES
IN THIS STRATEGIC AREA AND WHAT FRG DOING TO ASSIST IN PRACTICAL
FASHION. HE CHAIRED AUG 23 MEETING IN WIESBADEN WITH USAREUR
REPRESENTATIVES AT WHICH LATTER ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL LONG STANDING
REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL PERMANENT TRAINING AREAS IN HESSEN. KOHL
PLEDGED ON BEHALF HESSEN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS
FOR AD HOC MANEUVER RIGHTS.

3. KOHL IS FORMER CHAIRMAN OF HESSEN FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FDP)
AND NOW ONE OF FOUR FDP MEMBERS IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. HE
REPRESENTS CONSERVATIVE, NATIONALIST ELEMENT OF PARTY WHICH HAS
BEEN ECLIPSED BY SOCIAL-LIBERAL WING IN RECENT YEARS, LEADING TO
ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESENT SPD/FDP COALITIONS IN FEDERAL AND HESSEN
GOVERNMENTS. HE HAS THUS LOST INFLUENCE WITHIN FDP BUT IS STILL
IN CENTRAL POSITION OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO US. HE IS LESS THAN
ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTER OF PRESENT COALITION AND SKEPTICAL OF ITS
OSTPOLITK BUT BERY FRIENDLY TO US OFFICIALS AND FAVORABLE DISPOSED
TO CONTINUED, STRONG AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE. HARLAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973FRANKF05752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HARLAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: FRANKFURT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730954/aaaabnxv.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 151738; USIA 14814
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO US BY HESSEN DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER
TAGS: OVIP, MARR, GE, (HESSEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005